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OLC 78-3723/1
22 December 1978

Briefings

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: Legislative Counsel
SUBJECT: Congressional Briefing Strategy for North Korean Order of Battle

1. Now that you have briefed the President on the Intelligence Community's current evaluation of the North Korean Order of Battle, it is time to settle on a strategy for informing appropriate Members of Congress and their staffs. As you know, there has been considerable Congressional interest in this matter for several years and specific interest in the latest numbers scrub since the summer of 1978. In particular, we owe Jim Locher on the Senate Armed Services Committee for Senator Sam Nunn, and Pat Long and Dick Giza of the HPSCI detailed briefings. You yourself are obligated to Senator Nunn for a briefing. Representative Lester Wolff and his chief HIRC Subcommittee staffer are also anxious to learn the details. [REDACTED]

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2. In addition to these specific requests, we should offer briefings to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee and our two oversight committees. [REDACTED]

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3. It is recommended that [REDACTED] NIO for East Asia and the Pacific, along with [REDACTED] be deputed as your representatives to brief staffers and selected Members of Congress on our evaluation of the North Korean Order of Battle. This should take place as soon after Christmas as we can schedule the meetings. You should telephone General Tighe to inform him that you wish [REDACTED] to do the briefings on behalf of the Intelligence Community. (In the case of Senator Nunn, if you are unable to go to Bangkok for the tentative meeting between you and him on January 6, I believe you or [REDACTED] should try to brief him prior to his departure on the 31st of December. [REDACTED])

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4. By proceeding in this fashion with detailed briefings before you or the DDCI are scheduled to give worldwide briefings to the interested committees in late January, I believe we will defuse some of the criticism which is bound to arise from the analysis showing so many new North Korean divisions. I have checked your testimony in June and July of 1977 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Armed Services Committee and you said nothing there which would constitute a major embarrassment for you or the Administration given today's figures. [REDACTED]

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5. Attached hereto is the briefing [redacted] would propose to give to the above Members and staff chiefs. It is recommended that you approve the Congressional notification strategy set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and the attached briefing paper [redacted]

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[redacted]
FREDERICK P. HILTZ
Legislative Counsel

Attachment

Approved:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date

Distribution:

Original to DCI

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

1 - PE

1979 Per [redacted] OLC went ahead with briefings all though there was never a written approval by DCI

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